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Desert

MAGAZINE of the SOUTHWEST

NOVEMBER, 1962

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DEATH VALLEY. This year's dates for the "big party" at Death Valley—the '49er Encampment—are November 8-11. In addition to the old standby events—Burro Flapjack Sweepstakes, breakfasts for artists, authors and photographers, art show, square dancing, etc.—two special events are planned this year. Historical markers will be dedicated to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the discovery of borax at Searles Lake; and to honor the old Harmony Borax Works. U. S. Borax is scheduled to have its famed Twenty-Mule Team outfit on hand for the Harmony festivities and throughout



Star at this year's Encampment: the Twenty-Mule Team

Desert

MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTHWEST • 25TH YEAR

Volume 25

Number 11

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This Month's Cover—

The View From Zabriskie Point.—Christian Brevoort Zabriskie, an employee of "Borax King" Francis Smith, gave his name to a viewpoint described by C. G. Glasscock in his book, "Here's Death Valley," as "a coign of view of one of Death Valley's most startling collections of shining hills and shadowed vales." Photo is by Aim Morhardt of Bishop, Calif.

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the Encampment. From over Nevada way will come the wranglers and their balky animals—competing in the Beatty "World's Championship Wild Burro Race." Finish line for the three-day race is Stovepipe Wells. A new DV Superintendent, John A. Aubuchon, will be on hand to greet the thousands of persons who will congregate in the Valley on this special weekend.

* * *

GOOD NEWS. For the first time in four years, the value of mineral production in California increased. Mineral output last year from wells, mines, pits and quarries in the state totaled \$1,423,507,000. This was an increase of one percent over 1960's \$1,404,733,000. Most interesting entry in the California Division of Mines and Geology annual report: Amador County, in the heart of the Mother Lode country which spawned the California Gold Rush, produced one (1) ounce of silver in 1961—valuation: \$1. Amador's gold production picture, however, was almost a dozen-times brighter. Its miners recovered 11 ounces of gold last year.

* * *

E. P. DORR'S TREASURE. San Bernardino Superior Court has been handed the job of untangling a dispute between two mining groups which involves millions—even billions—of dollars in gold, provided, of course that a chap named E. P. Dorr was on the up-and-up when he signed a certain affidavit on Nov. 16, 1934. On that date, Dorr swore that he had discovered a cavern through which an underground river flowed "almost alongside U. S. 91 (and 466) in the Kokoweef Peak of Ivanpah Mountains — only 65 miles from Las Vegas." Along the eight miles of riverbank that Dorr said he

Continued on page 6



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CHICAGO 1—35 East Wacker Drive. ST 2-8196

SAN FRANCISCO 3—1355 Market Street. UN 1-7175
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desert detours

by Oren Arnold

"Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while." Mark 6:31

This is the month in which our forefathers bared their heads, bowed and said "Thank You, Lord." Imagine how horrible it would have been if they'd had no one to thank! They couldn't have dreamed that their "New World" would extend some day across what we now call a desert nearly 3000 miles away, a region having the same reverent ideals, the same gratitude for life's blessings. I've never met a desert dweller who didn't feel very close to God.

I'm not yet sure how I'll acquire a turkey for the Day. Raffle, maybe. Or turkey shoot, or gift, or just plain old capitalistic grocery store buying. No matter. What I'm thankful for is that I do have four or five ways. Some nations don't even have four or five turkeys.

I suppose even the Russian families have much to be thankful for; life itself is something. But I have a hunch that much of their secret gratitude is for a certain Lady in a certain harbor holding high a torch. Maybe its light will never reach them, but for their children at least they can hope.

Our greatest honor is that we were selected to guard that Lady of the torch. Our biggest achievement is that we have done so since 1776. Our greatest hope is that we may extend her light around the world.

In many ways desert folk are better equipped than any to help extend that light. We are mostly individualists, or we wouldn't be out here in this land of sand, of horn, thorn and claw; we'd be seeking our ease in some city apartment. And it's the adventurers, the folk who wouldn't stay fenced in, who established Liberty. They are our kind.

"I ain't afereed of nary a human being on this earth!" Uncle-Give-A-Damn Jones shouted to a bunch of us at a party once. I think he was a mite likkered, but he meant it. Then he judiciously added, with a twinkle, "Except m'wife Mollybelle." They'd lived in a desert cabin for years, and

she kept him "straight." Most of our wives are like that. Liberty herself is a lady, remember.

You can never right selfishness by self righteousness.

The desert has two Autumns. High altitudes turn red and gold in early October, low levels wait until late December. Easterners think we don't have any trees at all! Truly our "desert" is a misnomer; very few areas are really barren, and even they hold much of interest. All of America—thank You, Lord—is a good land.

I'll admit it—my leaves need raking, and a lot of other Saturday work awaits me in my yard. But with football season in full swing, work would be selfish. We alumni have to support higher education by yelling for it.

Whenever Doldrum University plays Ennui Tech, I get all hot and bothered. So do millions of other Americans. We scream and snarl at each other for two hours, then all go out to dinner together to celebrate. Foreigners can't understand this. Actually, it's our happy way of letting off steam. Foreigners think they have to start a war to get the same results.

Climbed Squaw Peak again last Sunday, for the first time in years. Wanted to find out if my legs had lost any of their zip and resilience.

They had.

Betty Palmer makes beautiful things of desert rocks. All kinds of things, like "mosaic" table tops, pictures, stepping stones, lintels, vases, urns, murals. Our colored stones are objects of beauty just waiting for artists such as she. All you need is a little glue, a little energy, and a lot of imagination.

Heard there was a nudist colony on the desert north of Scottsdale, Arizona. Went out there to investigate—felt it was my bounden duty as a church deacon—and discovered it was true, only it was limited to men tubercular patients. Darn it.

We've had a known five nudist colonies on our Arizona desert. None of them matched the one that abides persistently in Hollywood. Biggest of all is in Las Vegas night clubs. I'm not agin goin' nekkid, long as nobody else is around; but it do seem rather pointless. And we don't really need the population explosion that usually results if somebody else is around. Because the somebody else nearly always is of the opposite persuasion.

"All my experience with the opposite sex," reports my old desert rat friend Gus Grainger, "shows that they shorely can be opposite."

You folks have all read about the camels our government once imported and put on our Southwestern desert. Well, it seems that a caravan of them was trudging from Yuma to El Centro. Finally one of the beasts looked around and said to another, "I don't care what anybody says, I'm thirsty."

A New York man visited northern Arizona, went home and reported to his pals in the bar—"There I was, with Indians to the right of me, Indians to the left of me, Indians behind me, and Indians in front of me."

"Wow!" breathed the gang, impressed. "Whatever did you do?"

"What else could I do?" shrugged our boy. "I bought a blanket."

Recipe for Preserved Children, tacked on a wall in a happy home ten miles from Rosamond: "Take 1 large mountain, 50,000 acres of dry land, a pinch of stream and some pebbles, 2 or 3 little dogs. Mix the children and dogs well together. Add a horse or two if available. Spread it all with care under a deep blue sky and bake in the sun. When brown, set away to cool for half an hour in a bath tub, then cover lightly in bed until breakfast. Serve generously."

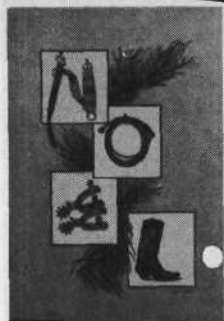
Think now of your loved ones; and of the once-loved you too seldom see. For these latter, Christmas cards were created—and time is short! Avoid the stupid sexy ones, the Mickey Mouse cartoons, the outhouse humor; use cards that remember the Birthday—on a desert much like our own. And on Nov. 22, say thanks for that Birthday.

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"Man, that's what I call a mirage!"

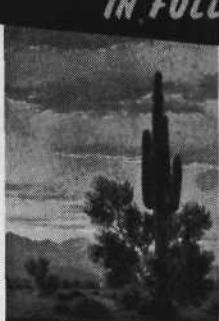
16th ANNUAL ROUNDUP WESTERN CHRISTMAS CARDS IN FULL COLOR



201 **NOEL Greetings**
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202 **Christmas Chores**
A Friendly Greeting at Christmas
and Best Wishes for the New Year



203 **"Come ye—into a desert place—"**
May every happiness be yours at
Christmas and throughout the
Coming Year



204 **Highballin' the Christmas Mail**
Best Wishes at Christmas and
Happiness through all the Coming
Year



205 **Thinkin' of you at Christmas**
With Best Wishes for a Happy
Holiday Season



206 **"Cowboy's Christmas Prayer"**
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and May the Peace and Good Will
of Christmas always be with you



209 **Surprise Package**
Greeting is a clever and appropri-
ate western verse



210 **After the Storm**
Merry Christmas and Best Wishes
for the New Year



211 **Christmas Greetings from Our
Outfit to Yours**
with Best Wishes for the Coming
Year



214 **Home for Christmas**
Happy Holidays and Best Wishes
for the Coming Year



217 **Canvasbacks Coming In**
Season's Greetings and Best
Wishes for all the Year



218 **-from the two of us!**
With Friendly Good Wishes for the
Coming New Year



220 **Christmas Shoppin'**
Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year



221 **"-there were shepherds-"**
May the Peace and Joy of Christ-
mas abide with you through all
the Coming Year



222 **Christmas Morning**
Best Wishes at Christmas and
Happiness through all the Coming
Year



223 **Christmas Night**
Merry Christmas and Happy New
Year



224 **Warmest Greetings**
With Best Wishes for the Season
and a Happy New Year



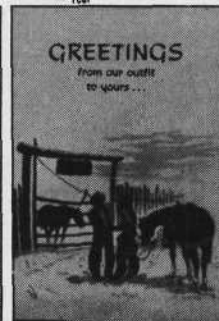
226 **Prairie Post Office**
Hoping you have a Happy Holiday
Season and a Prosperous New
Year



227 **Candles of the Lord**
May every happiness be yours at
Christmas and throughout the
Coming Year



228 **Silent Night**
May the Peace and Joy of Christ-
mas be with you through all the
Year



230 **Greetings...**
With Best Wishes for a Prosperous
New Year

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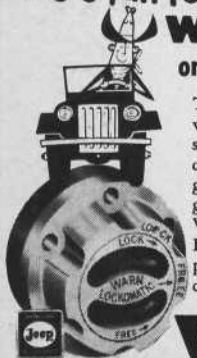
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THE DESERT IN NOVEMBER (continued from page 3)

explored, the black sands were heavy with gold—an assay ran to \$2150 to the cubic yard. And now two groups are fighting over the mining rights to the ground under which Dorr's cavern supposedly lies. One of the parties had brought in \$50,000 worth of drilling equipment, and was operating around the clock (at \$30 an hour) until the court ordered a halt to the work.

* * *

CLOSING THE GAP. We are told by those who study such things, that Palm Springs could grab a great many of the tourist dollars wafting into Las Vegas and Phoenix-Scottsdale if only Palm Springs had direct air service to such centers of cool congestion as San Francisco and Chicago. Apparently the latter connection will take some time, but on Sept. 30, Western Airlines began its schedule of daily one-stop (Ontario) without-change-of-plane flights between San Francisco and Palm Springs. Leave S.F. at 8:15 a.m.—arrive in P.S. at 10:04 a.m..

* * *

DRIVING HINT. Do you "fan" your brakes while descending a long, steep grade? This long-standing bit of driving lore seems greatly overrated on the basis of exhaustive brake tests carried on recently in Death Valley. Test engineers pushed brake components to the ultimate in a series of tests which included runs from the top of Townes Pass (elevation 4956) to the below-sea-level valley floor. According to their findings, a steady pressure on the brakes while descending the steep winding highways was more effective than the traditional advice of "fanning" (applying and releasing) brakes. The engineers said that the increased rotational speed of the rotating parts of the car caused when the brakes are released requires more braking power than is saved by the momentary release.

* * *

HEALTHY HABITAT. Over the years, it has been easy to "prove" that the desert is beautiful, mysterious, promising, etc. We also maintain in these pages, that the desert is healthful—but up to now this fact has been a little more difficult to put over. Now comes proof of sorts: Palm City, the Coachella Valley "retirement community," reports that among its home owners (total residents to date: 850), 20 are physicians and dentists. "Apparently," said Palm City developer Nels G. Severin, "these medical men have practiced what they preach about climate."

* * *

PALM TOWNS. The High Desert environment at Palmdale is not conducive to the growing of palm trees. In fact, a few years ago when the local county park succeeded in transplanting a few palm trees, the Palmdale townspeople hailed this as a major step forward. After all, it's sort of embarrassing to be part of a town named Palmdale where—before the county stepped-in—nary a palm tree grew. (Early settlers who named the town thought the ubiquitous Joshua tree belonged to the palm family.) And now, it is the turn of the community of Twentynine Palms to catch-up with its name, although there are a mite more palms there than at Palmdale. The Twentynine Palms Lions Club is going to plant Thirtysix Palms in the downtown area.

* * *

NOVEMBER CALENDAR. The big November weekend is the 10th-11th, with each of the California deserts claiming important events: on the Low Desert, the Salton Sea 500-Mile Boat Race (see page 8); on the High Desert, the annual Death Valley '49er Encampment (see page 3). Other November events on the desert: **2-4**—Imperial Valley Gem and Mineral Show, at Imperial. **2-12**—Arizona State Fair, Phoenix. **3-4**—Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Show at China Lake. **7-12**—Annual Rockhound Roundup at Barstow. **10-11**—Twentynine Palms Gem and Mineral Show and 20th Annual Weed Show **10-11**—Cattle Call and Rodeo at Brawley. **16-18**—Sahara Hotel Fast Draw National Championship at Las Vegas. **17**—Annual Christmas Parade at Winslow, Ariz. **17-18**—Thermal Auto Races. **25**—Rodeo, San Carlos Apache Reservation, Ariz. **28-Dec. 1**—Clark County Sheriff's Mounted Posse Rodeo, Las Vegas. **30**—Los Vigilantes Christmas Parade, El Centro.

///

Desert Garden Guide

— THINGS TO DO IN NOVEMBER

House plants need routine attention in November. Don't let them become so dry that the leaves wilt—but don't keep the soil saturated constantly, either. Pot-bound plants will need light feedings of liquid fertilizer. Long spindly growth indicates your house plants have insufficient light, that indoor temperature is too high, or that both conditions exist.

Here's what you'll want to do in the outdoors this month:

Lawns

LOW DESERT: Rye Grass will need mowing as soon as it is two inches high. Watering is necessary.

The pink-purple Ice Plant is a colorful and excellent ground cover for the South-west Desert areas. It blooms freely and covers the ground quickly, requiring little care.



Perennials

LOW DESERT: Roses can be planted this month. Continue watering all actively-growing plants until rains come. When early-flowering Camellias are through blooming, they should be given an application of specially prepared Camellia fertilizer to insure future bloom.

HIGH DESERT: Continue removing dead foliage and blossoms and other debris from the garden. Cuttings of Geraniums, Heliotrope, Coleus and many plants will root easily now in greenhouse or cold frame.

NEVADA, UTAH AND N. ARIZONA: In the colder areas, Roses will need winter protection. The soil can be hilled-up around plants to a depth of one foot. Climbing roses and grape vines may be laid on the ground and covered lightly with straw or soil. Do not make the mistake of covering plants too early—the purpose of protection is not to keep the plants warm (as many people suppose), but to provide a more even soil temperature—to prevent damage that follows rapid fluctuations in temperature. Covering should come after a continual cold spell.



Annuals

LOW DESERT: Continue cleaning-up the garden. Plant all bulbs (except Tulips which should be refrigerated before planting in December). Set out nursery-grown Pansies, Primulas, Cinerarias. Sweet Peas can be sown in a properly prepared trench—dig soil deeply, add humus and fertilizer in bottom of trench, cover with soil. Pansy seed can be planted late in November if the seed has been placed in the refrigerator for a week or two; blossoms will appear early in the spring. A variety of vegetable seeds can be planted this month.

HIGH DESERT: Finish planting bulbs. Provide protection for plants that are not hardy.



Trees

CALIFORNIA DESERTS: November is a good month to plant fruit trees and shrubbery. Hardwood cuttings may be planted outdoors. Small trees may need bracing. Do not plant citrus trees in a "lawn-sprinkling" area. Citrus trees need heat rather than sun, therefore they do well in hot, shady places. Grapefruit is especially suited to the Low Desert. Dwarf Citrus in containers do nicely as patio plants, though they will not develop and bear fruit in quantity as those planted in the ground.

NEVADA, UTAH AND N. ARIZONA: It may be necessary to protect young fruit and shade trees from sunscald in the winter months by placing tree guards around the trunks.



Natives

Brittlebush can stand severe cutting-back in the fall, and early November is not too late. This will insure better foliage and flowers.

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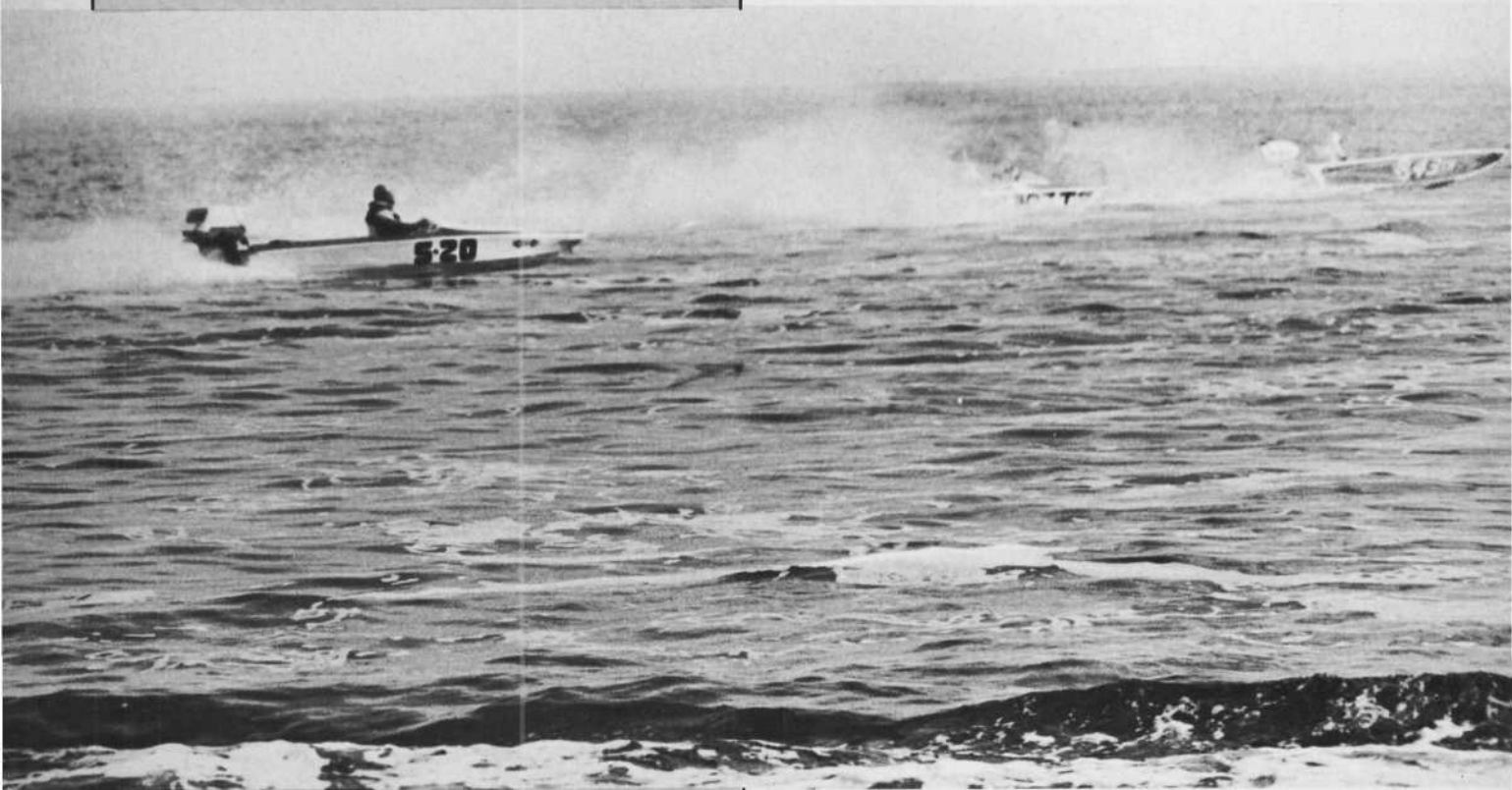
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"DON'T FORGET A FRIEND THIS XMAS"

THE 'Salton 500'

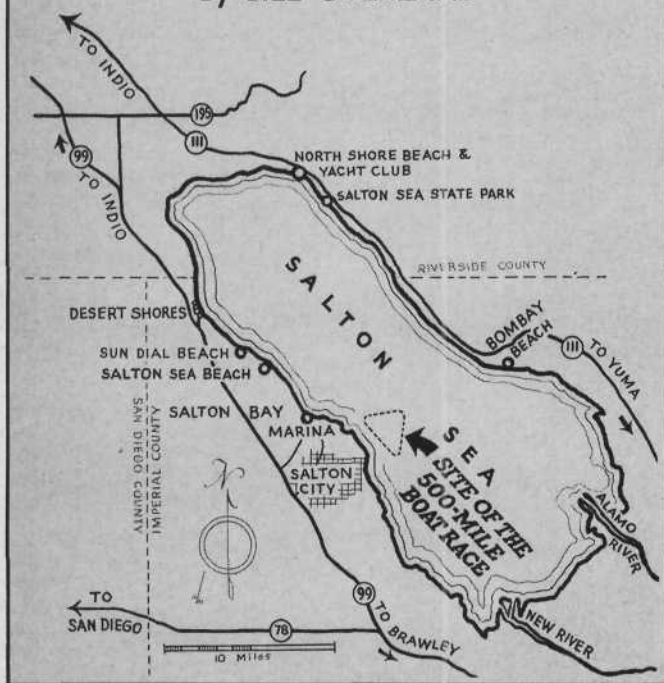
A NEW OVERPASS spans Highway 99 at Thousand Palms. Each week — no matter what the season — more boats pass under this bridge than pass under the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco Bay. The Highway 99 boats, of course, are being towed behind cars and pick-up trucks from the Los Angeles metropolitan area to Salton Sea.

After 50 years of slumber so far as boating is concerned, Salton Sea is at last maturing as a major water



75 INBOARDS AND OUTBOARDS
WILL BATTLE FOR THE BIG PRIZE AT
SALTON SEA, NOVEMBER 9 - 10 - 11

By BILL OVERLAND



sport area. Evidence of this came at last year's inaugural Salton City 500 Race, which lured 25,000 spectators and drivers from all over the United States.

Dates for this year's 500 mile race are November 9, 10 and 11. It promises to be one of the major desert spectacles of all time.

A fast 380 square-miles of water surface provides the most unusual setting for major boat racing in the world. Below sea level, Salton Sea offers increased water density, and, some experts insist, more oxygen packed into every snort of the carburetor on racing engines. One thing is certain — boat speeds do increase on this vast body of water.

It's a worthwhile spectator event, with miles of shoreline available for viewing the 500-mile race in progress. Here are the details you'll need:

The location is just off Highway 99 in Salton City, about 35 miles south of Indio. The first day (Nov 9) will be for boat *qualifying* only. The start flag drops for the big race at 10 a.m. Saturday the 10th. The event will be split into marathon parts with six hours racing time the first day shutting down at 4 p.m. Racing resumes on Sunday, Nov. 11, again at 10 a.m. The first driver to complete his 500 miles over the four-mile triangular course (125 laps) will be the overall winner of \$5000 in prize money out of a total purse of \$15,000, one of the richest races held anywhere. Drivers will drop out of the race as they complete their laps. At

4 p.m. Sunday, a flare signaling the end of the race will be fired.

Hefty prizes will be paid to winners, down to 12th position, in the following classes:

- 1—unlimited inboards.
- 2—unlimited single-engine outboards.
- 3—unlimited twin-engine outboards.

From a spectator standpoint, the Salton City 500 will be more exciting than ordinary heat-type races which are so staggered and broken-up as to confuse the watchers. The 500 by contrast, will be run with *all* 75 boats slashing through the water at one time. Classes will start only one minute apart. This means boats will be in action and competing continuously for six hours each of the two days. No boredom here! Last year's race was exciting and full of action. Flipping boats, collisions, and spectacular accidents are always a possibility in an event which has 75 boats racing in a confined area simultaneously. Spectators will be on their chair-edges the full time.

Admission price is a dollar per day, or \$2 for a three-day ticket. Boats may file for the race through November 3. Qualifying races on November 9 will whittle down the original allowed 300 entries to the fastest 75 for the actual 500-mile classic.

Accommodations for overnight stay are available at the following local motels in the vicinity: Desert Gar-

den Motel, Marina Vista, Riviera Trailer Park, and a public campground at Salton City. Also at the Saltana Motel at nearby Desert Shores. Indio and Palm Springs are about 30 to 60 minutes driving time away with plentiful accommodations.

Take along a wide-brimmed hat, sun glasses, water jug, ice-chest, an umbrella, and a blanket. Binoculars for observing the race will increase your awareness of what takes place out on the white-water stretches. Food vending stands will be spotted throughout the area; however, with 40,000 spectators expected, it seems wise to take along a lunch and cold drinks. Mild weather is expected, but bring coats as well as a sun shade. This is California.

Spectators will be allowed to park cars right along the shoreline in most areas. Perhaps the best spot will be at the Yacht Club turn, which is also the start and finish of the big race. However, almost any point along the beach will be good. (No private boats will be allowed in the area during the race.)

Sponsors are the Salton City 500-Mile National Championship Charitable Foundation. Proceeds from the race will be used for future construction of a hospital at Salton City.

Boat owners interested in entering should contact: Salton City 500 executive office, 1111 W. Foothill Blvd., Azusa, Calif. ///



SPECTATORS LINE THE BEACH AT LAST YEAR'S INAUGURAL RACE

WEEKEND TRAVEL TARGET:

VALLECITO

By WALTER FORD

Southern California's historic Immigrant Trail provides pleasant adventure for those who retrace its scenic path through the Anza-Borrego desert

ANZA-BORREGO State Park's 478,000 acres of desert playground are roughly bisected by Highway 78. Most desert enthusiasts are familiar with the numerous scenic and outdoor fun attractions on the Borrego side of the park, but there are many who have yet to discover the equally enchanting Vallecito sector which lies to the south.

You can reach the Vallecito area and, incidentally, travel over one of Southern California's most romantic and historic highways, by turning right from Highway 78 at Scissors Crossing and proceeding in a southeasterly direction. Along this route passed soldiers, padres, trappers, gold hunters, and adventurers, most of whom were coming to seek their fortunes in this Golden Land of Promise. It was over this trail that General Kearney led his troops to disastrous defeat at San Pasqual. Close behind Kearney was Colonel Cooke and his Mormon Battalion, who had the honor of blazing the first wagon road into Southern California via the Southern Immigrant Trail, by which the route came to be known. Eleven years after Cooke opened this road, the Butterfield Stage Lines established travel between St. Louis and California, continuing its service until the Civil War.

About five-and-a-half miles from Scissors Crossing, the pavement winds over Little Pass, then drops into Blair Valley. This popular spot—a secluded rock-rimmed valley with a tree-studded dry lake for a floor—is designated by the Park Service as a “primitive” campground, but in spite of this dubious handicap, it is usually well filled with weekend campers during the fall, winter and spring seasons. (Campsites lacking water and with limited sanitary facilities are classed as “primitive.”) If you follow the granite ridge around the eastern side of Blair Valley for about a mile you come to the “Foot and

Walker” grade where the passengers in the old stages had to get out and help push the coaches over the steep rocky ridge. Here the old trail, deeply worn in the granite base, still can be seen.

Three miles along the highway from Blair Valley, the Park Service has provided a historical monument for Colonel Cooke and his army. History records that when they opened a wagon road through the canyon, Cooke personally used an axe to hew the rocky walls—to inspire his men to greater efforts. For a long time the spot was known as Cooke's Pass and

Devil's Canyon. More recently, and not at all inappropriately, it bears the name of Box Canyon. You have only to gaze into the canyon from the viewpoint to realize how thoroughly boxed in those early trail breakers were.

The Vallecito Stage Station lies off the Southern Immigrant Trail, nine miles from Box Canyon. It had its beginning in 1851 when a small house was constructed for military purposes during the Garra Indian revolt. Later it was enlarged to serve as a way-station for passengers on the Butterfield Stage Line and the many lone travelers who struggled across the torturing sands from Yuma with perhaps only the thought of cool water and abundant grass at the station to sustain them. Today's travelers find the area an equally popular haven, with shade trees, tables and benches, water, stoves, and modern rest rooms—all provided by San Diego County.

Any desert section worthy of the name can lay claim to one or more buried treasure legends. Vallecito has more than its share. Philip Bailey has recorded many of them in his intriguing volume, *Golden Mirages*, but there are still a few which the light of publicity has rarely reached. One of these is known to a few as the “Rebel Cache of Vallecito.”

During the War Between the States, sections of Southern California were hot-beds of Rebel sympathizers who attempted to render financial aid to the South whenever possible. On one occasion, so the story goes, when \$50,000 in gold was being transported eastward, the messengers were ambushed in a certain part of Vallecito, but before they were overcome they managed to bury the gold. Desert artist John Hilton and I heard about the buried treasure back in the days when we had a little more leisure time than we have at present, and decided to make a search for it. We

“ . . . God Knew What Was In The Mountains . . . ”

Waterman L. Ormsby, New York Herald special correspondent, was the only through passenger on the Overland Mail Company's first westbound stage, which made the run from St. Louis to San Francisco in September, 1858. Here is his contemporary report on a portion of the Vallecito country:

From Little Valley (Vallecito) the road leads, through a rough canyon, over a steep and stony hill into another valley, whose only characteristic is an abundance of grease weed . . . At the end of this Valley . . . our road strikes the San Diego road, and proceeds through a very narrow pass (Box Canyon)—the most wonderful on the route . . .

Our progress through this portion of the road was quite slow, necessarily, and it required all Mr. Hall's skill to guide our team and wagon safely through the pass, for in some places there was hardly an inch to spare.

It is the most wonderful natural road I ever saw or heard of; one of the drivers, however, thought the journey rather dull and declared that, if God ever pronounced this part of the earth good, it was more than ever man did. Mr. Foreman suggested that God knew what was in the mountains and man did not . . .

—“The Butterfield Overland Mail;” published by the Huntington Library



BOY SCOUTS ENJOY CAMP LIFE AT DOS CABEZAS SPRING

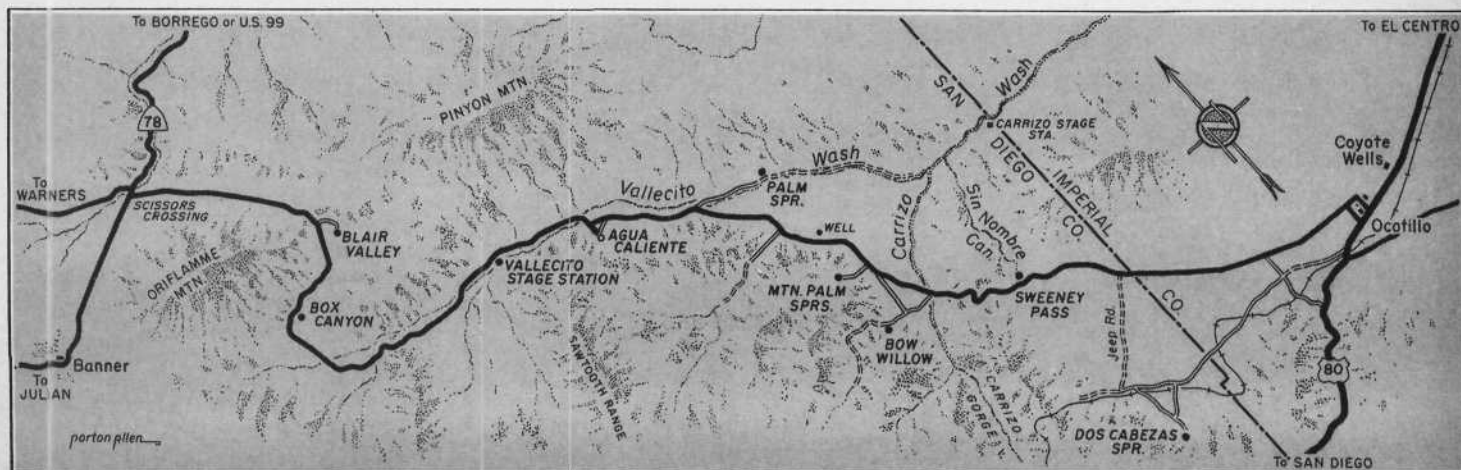
built an electronic metal locator, and on one of the hottest days of the year headed for Vallecito. The area of our search was near a dry wash, and we had covered but a few feet of the surface when our locator indicated a mass of metal below. Forgetting the heat and the strenuous exertion,

we dug through packed dirt and sand, removed enormous boulders, and uncovered the remains of a metal-bound trunk! Of Civil War vintage? No. Just a modern trunk not more than a dozen years old. We never returned to take-up the search.

About 7.8 miles from Vallecito you

will see a brown-and-yellow post on the left-side of the highway which indicates the way to the site of the old Palm Spring Stage Station. Close-by another sign warns that the trail is for four-wheel-drive vehicles only. Normally, a standard car can make

Continued on page 24



*Standing beside an
abandoned gasoline pump
of bygone days, a pair of
timeless burros graze on
the scant grass of the
Indian country near
Mishongnovi, Arizona,
a Hopi town.*



Down A Winter Road

-- By JAMES TALLON --

Modern times have given us many advantages over the Southwestern pioneer. A case in point: the automobile. But, in spite of all the vehicles on the freeways—and the motorists' strong will to see our extraordinary American deserts—the relatively good roads leading to *remote* places are notoriously vacant. Not all these distant points of interest are the choicest, but only a minority are worth passing by.

Along these sandy and sun-baked ways, each discovery becomes a personal accomplishment, and the fulfillment provided by the seldom - disturbed spaciousness, peacefulness

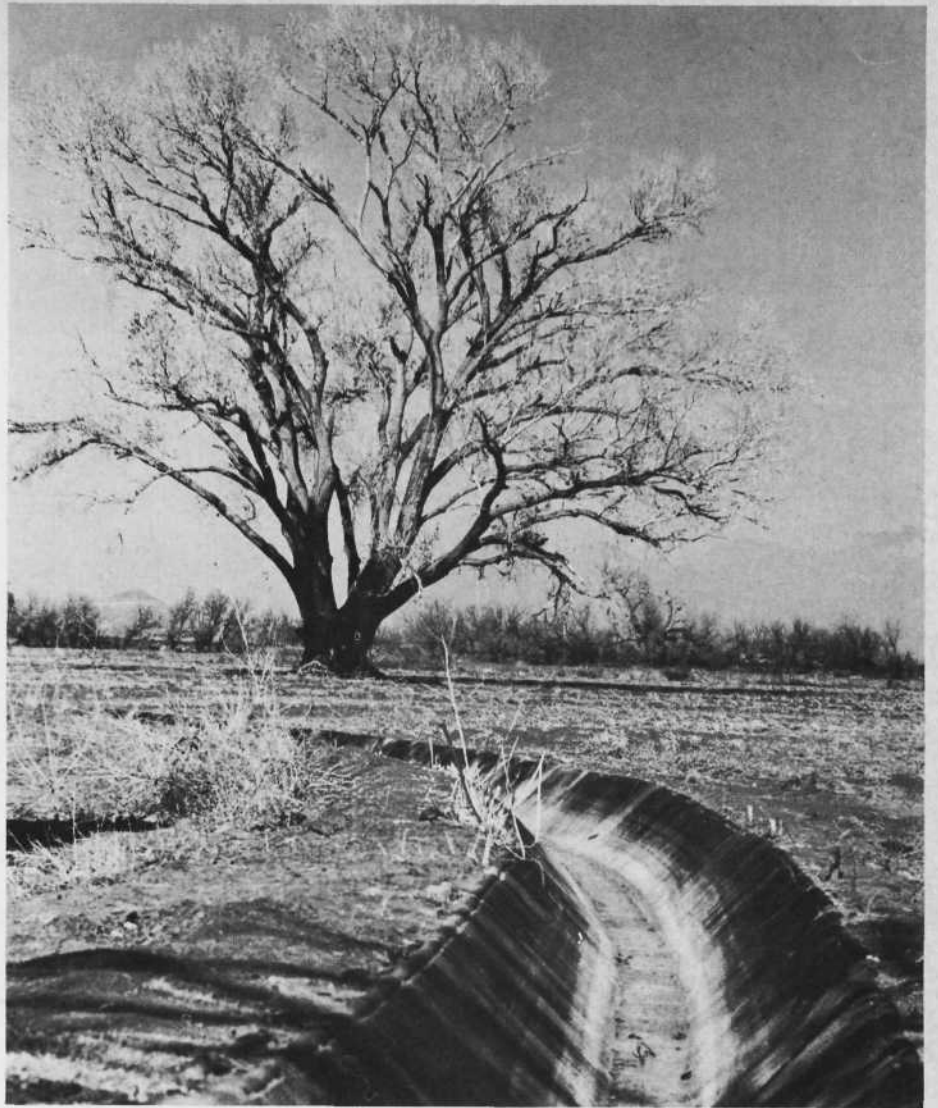
and beauty goes unmeasured. The tidal wave of population thunders on the shores of our deserts, but is temporarily held back by the flood wall of "waterless-ness."

Someday this yet unspoiled land will wear the green of irrigation throughout, and bear the many sounds of humanity. Then our places to "get away from it all" will be only a memory.

But that is tomorrow; today still offers a solution to our quest for the unusual—the great deserts and the roads that pass through them.



A visitor from the East walks the rim of Coal Canyon, enjoying this intimate brush with the land's grandeur.



Dressed in its winter nakedness, a cottonwood tree awaits the greenness of spring—and the water that will come flowing down the irrigation ditch. ///

A group of old wagon-wheel bands "rest in peace" against the corrugated wall of a mine shack.



YOUR PERSONAL SLICE OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

✓ After an 18-month recess, the Bureau of Land Management is back in the business of auctioning-off 5-acre desert homesites to the public . . .

✓ . . . or — if you are imbued with the pioneering spirit — you can try homesteading a larger portion of government land, but the odds will be heavily against you.

AN 18-MONTH moratorium on public filing, which enabled the Bureau of Land Management to process a backlog of 59,954 applications, ended in September.

Land offices are again accepting applications from Americans wishing to exercise the privilege once afforded them by the Homestead Law. Most of these applicants are doomed to disappointment. There is virtually no land left for appropriation under the Agricultural Laws, outside of Alaska. While there is still land left which would produce good crops, market surpluses, lack of investment capital, and the big red flag, lack of water, work against prospective entrymen to the extent that few attempts are allowed and fewer still succeed.

Most of us have a visual image of homesteading as a great Western movement that began and ended with the covered wagon. However, by virtue of the Homestead Act of 1862, homesteading still is possible today, although for the reasons given above, very little use can be made of this old law.

While homesteading has become veritably a thing of the past, there is still public land available to Mr. & Mrs. U. S., in the form of small tracts of five-acres or less, offered under authority of the Small Tract Act of 1938. In Southern California alone, more than 4000 tracts of non-agricultural lands are available for

sale at weekly auctions. These "Jack-rabbit Homesteads" may be purchased by any U. S. citizen or alien who has filed for citizenship.

Average price for a Southern California desert parcel (five-acres) is \$1000. The price range is \$175 to \$2500. In late September, the BLM's Riverside Office offered at auction three tracts of land in the Palm Springs area — minimum bid, \$4500 for five-acres.

The Riverside Office has a large list of small tracts available in the desert areas of Southern California. Auctions of the tracts are held in the Land Office (1414 8th Street) at 10 a.m. every Wednesday. Bids must equal appraised value, or exceed it by increments of \$25, and all sales are final, payment being made in full. This is not "homesteading" in the strict sense of the word—but it is the best way to obtain a piece of Government land.

The public land records at Riverside are open for inspection from 10 to 3, Monday through Friday; information may be obtained from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. weekdays. A "Southern California Small Tract Program" brochure, with maps and information for small tract bidding can be obtained by mail or in person.

New BLM procedures not only speed the individual's application (before the Moratorium, some applications for small tracts were four

years old or older), they open the desert door of opportunity to Western states and local governments which can now obtain public land sites for school construction, hospitals, treatment centers and research facilities for \$2.50 an acre.

Interior Secretary Stewart Udall identifies this action as another step toward encouraging the transfer of suitable public land to public use under state or local control. A previous administrative order opened-up expansion of park and recreational facilities by making public lands available for these purposes to local agencies at low cost.

It took our government many years of bitter experience to discover that eager would-be land-owners sometimes must be protected from themselves.

Following passage of The Homestead Act of 1862, a million and a half tracts were given to the American people. Hordes of ambitious farmers flocked West after the Civil War, many to find that complications lay in the way of their dreams. The 160 acres allowed under the Act were of varying values; much of this land, especially in the Southwest, was too arid to cultivate in those pre-mechanized times. Failure and loss resulted.

An attempt at a solution was made by President Grant in 1877 in the form of the Desert Land Act. Recognizing that irrigation was essential



THE HIGH DESERT, WHERE MUCH OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S FIVE-ACRE AUCTION ACTIVITY IS TAKING PLACE

for agriculture in most of this area, the Act provided that a settler might claim 320 acres if he conducted water to the land. The law proved absurd; it did not specify *how much* water, and stockmen grabbed thousands of acres with mere token fulfillment of the law.

By 1900, Federal policy in reclaiming arid lands was taking hold. Money from sale of lands in 16 Western states went into a revolving fund for irrigation projects.

The year 1902 saw the first Federal irrigation programs; and the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, allowing for regulated use of public lands, did much to counteract the difficulty of making a success of desert homesteading. The next stride forward came in the form of the BLM's recent "master unit classification system" which

evaluates land on three counts: topography; land use and tenure patterns; and public values. By determining the land's suitability *before* it is occupied, the government can give a measure of protection against possible financial disaster on the part the gullible or inexperienced would-be homesteader.

There are three basic types of true homestead possibilities in the Desert Southwest today:

1. National Forest entry. If you see a piece of ground in a National Forest which you think can be farmed, you can request the Forest Supervisor to have the land examined to determine its suitability for homesteading. If the Forest Service rules in your favor, you can proceed with the regular homestead steps.

2. Reclamation Homestead Entry. A tract of land which can be farmed by irrigation with water supplied by a Federal reclamation project is eligible for homestead entry. Applications must be cleared by the Bureau of Reclamation. Requirements for irrigation and water charges are controlled by that agency.

3. Desert Land Law. You can ask for entry on 320 acres under the Desert Land Law, if you can prove that the arid land you are filing on is of such character that it can be irrigated and cultivated, and that there is good reason to believe that a permanent and sufficient supply of water can be obtained for the irrigable land covered by the application. Before the entryman can obtain a

continued on page 33



POGUE'S STATION SOUTH OF EUREKA, NEVADA. IN THE FOREGROUND IS THE WELL WHICH POGUE DUG BY HAND.

A Miser's Fortune at Pogue's Station

By DUANE G. NEWCOMB

A DOBE TAKES a long time to crumple in the dry desert of Nevada, which means — happily — that the exact location of Pogue's Station near the juncture of Nye, White Pine and Eureka counties is easily found. Yet, even with this landmark as a guide, lost treasure searchers since 1914 have failed to find the fortune buried by Jim Pogue, "the rich miser of Pogue's Station."

I first heard of the buried loot several years ago while wandering about the Nevada desert. Bill Valentine told the story, and he originally heard it from an old prospector who was about to make another try for the money.

Since then, Bill has picked-up quite a few details on this tale from various sources throughout the state. In fact, everyone he talked to who knew something about Pogue was certain the treasure existed. The only thing they could not agree on was how much the old rascal had buried in the desert.

"The reason this fortune exists," Bill explained, "lies in the strange personality of Jim Pogue."

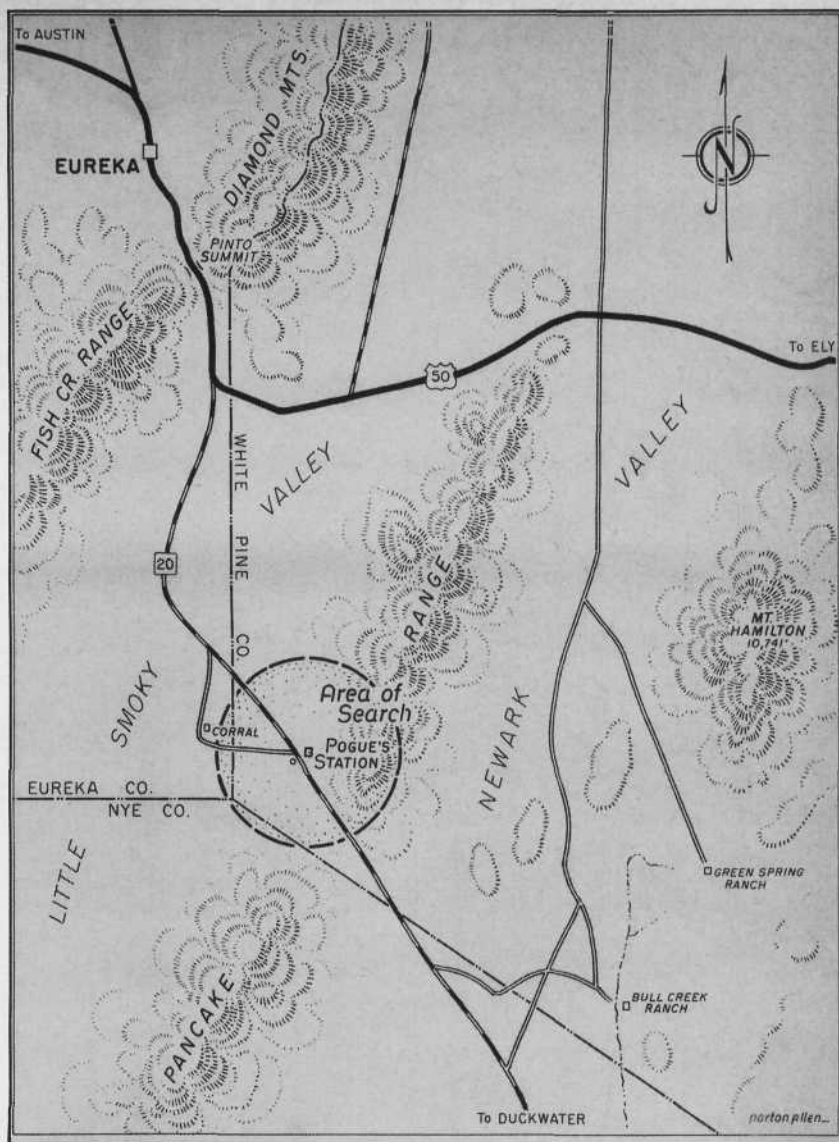
The stationmaster was a miserly man who distrusted people. While some say he left behind very little, others swear they saw at least \$25,000 sitting around the place — neatly packaged in bags. All agree that between 1911 and 1915, a great deal of money came into Pogue's hands — and very, very little left.

This money has to be buried somewhere in the vicinity of Pogue's Station on the flat stretch of desert between the Pancake and Fish Creek Ranges. This is a semi-waterless piece of land with poor roads and very few inhabitants. It is very much the same today as it was in 1915, when Pogue passed away.

Where Pogue came from is not known; what is known about the man is that he appeared in the area prior to 1911. One morning while riding toward Duckwater, he was robbed by two men. Left to die on the desert, he stumbled onto an unknown spring.



RELICS OF THE PAST REPOSE AGAINST STATION WALL



With the canny eye of a shrewd businessman, Pogue instantly realized the potential of his find. But, when he announced that he was going to build a station near the spring, the people in Eureka and Duckwater laughed.

"Laugh all you want," Pogue told them, "but I'll have the last laugh—you'll see!" And with that he began slapping together his empire with adobe mud and bits of lumber.

After developing the water supply, he erected a station, then a barn, corral, and several other buildings. Next he contacted with the stage line and some of the freighters for the watering of their stock, and he even began to develop a mine "somewhere in the hills." Finally, as a master stroke, he talked Nye County into paying him a daily fee for maintaining the public road in front of his station.

And since this was the only possible relief point on the state route linking Eureka and Duckwater, the money began to roll in.

Pogue wasn't satisfied with merely making a living. He had a water monopoly for a distance of several miles—and he made the most of it. He charged relatively stiff prices for that day, considering what he gave in return: 25c a head for watering stock; 50c a meal; 50c to spend the night on his property.

And Pogue kept his outgo to a bare minimum. For food, he traded with the Indians. For stock feed, he resorted to his warped genius by hanging tin cans along the road to frighten the teams pulling hay wagons. More than one bale of hay was scattered along the side of the road when a frightened horse jerked away from a tin can rattling in the breeze.

"Why should I pay for anything?" he asked. "The Indians are willing to help out, and there's more than enough hay spilled out there to take care of my needs."

"The only thing I ever saw him spend money for," Ed Halstead of Duckwater recalls, "was chewing tobacco. That was Pogue's trademark. There never was a time when his chin wasn't dribbling tobacco juice."

"I'm not making a penny," Pogue used to complain.

But, the people he told this to just laughed. "Why, I myself saw him take in at least \$100 a day for several summers," an oldtimer told me. "And I know he was making money on the mine. I'd say \$25,000 a year was a pretty conservative estimate."

To all this, Pogue admitted nothing. He merely kept grumbling about expenses. "I'm having it rough out here," he would say. "Sometimes in winter I hardly

have two stages a month, and in the summer all they want to do is cheat me out of my money."

Actually, Pogue was right. His place was so dirty, the water so bad and the food so unpalatable, practically every customer felt honor-bound to try to cheat Pogue out of his fee. But, there was nothing they could do. He had the water, and that was that.

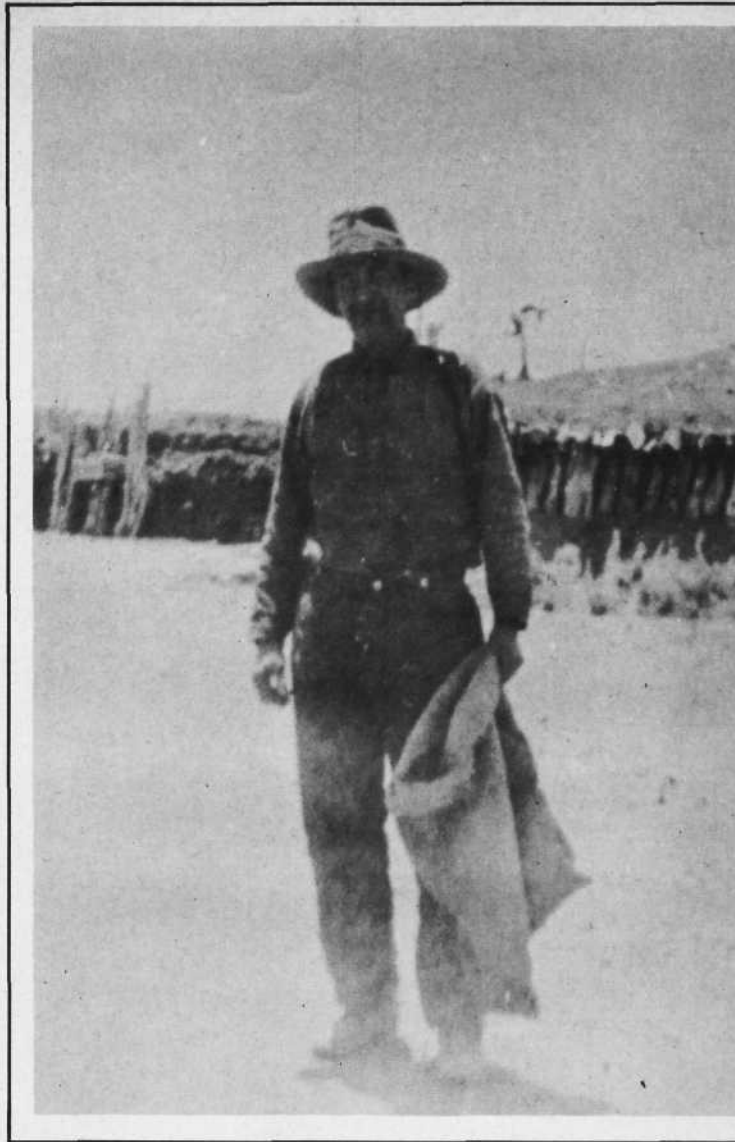
This state of affairs went on for three years, with the trade increasing each year, and then a rumor began spreading that Pogue was burying his money in the desert. Some of the residents of Duckwater told stories of seeing the cash. Soon everyone was certain Pogue was hiding thousands of dollars.

For a long time the story of Pogue's buried fortune was simply a bit of local gossip, until the day an old prospector digging in the hills behind the station unearthed a can of coins. He burst into town, crying out that he had found part of Pogue's fortune—"and there are thousands more out there just for the digging!"

Pogue had little to say. "It takes everything I make to keep up this place," he snapped. "That money isn't mine—it's just something that old fool dreamed up to make me look ridiculous."

But his denials were to no avail, and some men from town began a vigorous search. The shoveling and scratching lasted two weeks, then most of the fortune hunters returned to Duckwater.

In late 1913, two young men who had heard the story (which by then had spread throughout the Great Basin), appeared on the scene. If no one had uncovered the money or the mine, they reasoned, then the money must be in the mine. Find the mine and you find the money. On a map they laid out a huge grid



"WHY SHOULD I PAY . . . ?" ASKED POGUE. ". . . THERE'S MORE THAN ENOUGH HAY SPILLED OUT THERE . . ."

THE MAN...

IN THE LAST YEAR OF POGUE'S LIFE THE AUTOMOBILE MADE ITS PRESENCE FELT, CUTTING INTO HIS BUSINESS OF WATERING AND FEEDING LIVESTOCK. AT LEFT IS THE ONLY KNOWN PHOTO OF POGUE. BELOW: AN EARLY HUMMOBILE.

... AND HIS CHIEF NEMESIS



pattern, and then began their systematic search. They covered square after square of desert until their search brought them right to the station itself. Several times Pogue came out to see them. He even sold them some water and supplies. And when he finally discovered what the two youths were up to, old Pogue just laughed. "I don't have any money," he said. "Never will have any."

After four months of fruitless effort, the two young men left. Next summer, one of them returned and tried to work his way into Pogue's confidence. But the old man was not about to be fooled. He trusted no one. Besides, the appearance of the first automobiles in this part of the Southwest was putting a real crimp in Pogue's business. Because of the rotten conditions existing at his station, local residents were more than happy to eliminate the stop. As the stages began to fall off, so did business at Pogue's. He was in no mood to humor those bending their efforts to rob him of his savings.

The end came on May 15, 1915. Pogue died and not a penny was found! Three days later, he was given a free burial by Eureka County.

Perhaps the search should have ended there—but it didn't. Two years later a group of men from Duckwater discovered a few coins under some rocks near the station, and the news reverberated to every corner

of Nevada. The search was on once again. One of the station's adobe walls was torn out, and every foot of the desert for hundreds of yards was combed.

This flurry lasted three months, and once again subsided.

In 1936, John Hoyt, a prospector from Southern California, was searching an area east of the ruins, and fell into a five-foot-deep hole. At his feet was a box—containing \$11 and a scrap of paper. Encouraged, Hoyt dug deeper—but found nothing more.

"It was like Pogue laughing at Hoyt from the grave," Bill Valentine was saying. "From what I've learned about the old man, he was the kind who would have gone to great lengths to make sure no one on earth would derive any good from his money."

It boils down to what one of Duckwater's oldtimers told me: "Pogue couldn't have spent the money. He didn't send it away. He wasn't robbed. And he didn't leave the area. So, one of these days somebody's going to be digging out there in the desert, and he'll come across the biggest darn fortune you ever saw. And that's a fact!"

The starting point, of course, is the station. The search area has to be within four miles radius of the place, for Pogue was always on hand when it came to tending his business. ///



A NEW SEASON

The benign winter sun combines with a landscape-to-capture unlike any other on earth, to lure artists—amateur and professional—into the desert outdoors. Pictured here is a weekly class conducted by Sterling Moak, right, at the Desert Magazine Art Gallery in Palm Desert. For information on the art activities that will take place this season on the *inside* of this building, please turn the page.





FOR ART LOVERS:

"The desert, angular and bright..."

THE DESERT Magazine Art Gallery, located in the Desert Magazine building in Palm Desert, has long been a favorite stopping place for those who enjoy conventional desert-inspired paintings and crafts. Opened a dozen years ago, the gallery has shown most of the Southwest's finest artists, and now draws more than 60,000 visitors during its eight-month season (October 1 through May 31).

Now recognized as the finest all-desert gallery in the nation, the Desert Magazine Art Gallery emphasizes realistic and conventional canvases featuring a Southwestern theme. Occasionally for a change of pace, a few contemporary paintings, impressionistic or abstract, may be hung, but these are invariably done in desert colors.

Located on Highway 111 in Palm Desert,

the gallery is open daily (except Christmas Day), including Sundays, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with free admission to the public.

"We want Desert Magazine readers and their friends to feel free to visit the gallery frequently," says Paula Munson, Gallery Director. "The main purpose of the gallery is to allow those who love the desert to see the brilliant, colorful paintings done by some of the West's finest artists. The desert, angular and bright, is a challenging model for one of the strongest All-American schools of painting."

Paintings sold at the Desert Magazine Art Gallery range in price from \$3.95 (tiny miniatures) to large canvases costing several thousands of dollars. Subjects include smoke-tree desert washes, cowboys at round-up time, Indians, ghost towns, sunsets, Grand Canyon silhouettes, ocotillos and sand dunes, and dozens of others. There are approximately 250 paintings on display in the gallery at all times.

Connected with the gallery is a Crafts Shop which features Southwestern books, reproductions of desert paintings, Indian jewelry, pottery, ceramics, katchina dolls, and desert stationery, and a large selection of desert-theme Christmas cards. The lobby also shows the largest selection of genuine Navajo rugs in California. The Navajo rugs are personally selected for the Crafts Shop by Gil Maxwell of Farmington, New Mexico, one of the country's top authorities and buyers of Navajo rugs.

A gem shop is located adjacent to the Crafts Shop, and is operated by Harry and Rhama Cubbage, who spend their summers touring the rock and mineral shows and the county fairs of the west.

The gallery will conclude its season with the Second Annual "Dauberoo," a desert art festival and roundup that is designed to bring together various art groups for a weekend of painting and pleasantries. The individual painters are assigned desert subjects and then display their abilities to interpret the topics given them. Members of any organized art group in Southern California are welcome to participate in the Dauberoo, which terminates with an outdoor barbecue.

///

--THE NEW SEASON--

OCTOBER 1-21 — Indian scenes, pictographs, documentaries by Charles La Monk and John Burgess. Westerniana in watercolor by Fritz Wirtz.

OCTOBER 22-NOVEMBER 11 — Watercolors and oils by Coachella Valley artists: Earl Cordrey, Sterling Moak, Val Samuelson, Helen Abernathy, Goldie Harding, Lester Bonar.

NOVEMBER 12-DECEMBER 2 — Oils and watercolors by Burt Procter, Paul Lauritz, Nicholas Firfires. Documentary photos of Indians by Elizabeth Compton Hegemann.

DECEMBER 3-26 — Desert oils by John Hilton, John Coleman Burroughs, Bill Bender.

DECEMBER 27-JANUARY 16 — Western oils by Jimmy Swinnerton and Karl Alberts. Desert-theme ceramic figures by Hildred Reentz.

JANUARY 17-FEBRUARY 6 — Oils and temperas by Ted DeGrazia, Olaf Wieghorst, and Ray Brose.

FEBRUARY 7-28 — Outstanding Western watercolorists: Millard Sheets, Milford Zornes, Peter Hurd, Henriette Wyeth, Rex Brandt, John Meigs.

MARCH 1-20 — Dynamic designs in oils and watercolors by Emil J. Kosa, Charles Dye, Eva Worcester, and Art Riley.

MARCH 21-APRIL 11 — Conventional and contemporary: Sam Hyde Harris, Gerda With, Paul Dyck, and Fred Penney.

APRIL 12-MAY 18 — Artists' "Dauberoo," by art groups of Southern California. The last round-up!



A SILVER ANNIVERSARY BONUS FEATURE

TWO OLD DESERT FRIENDS

Hard Rock Shorty and the Desert Quiz—the former to give you a laugh and perhaps a twinge of superiority (*you* would never be taken-in by Shorty's tall tales the way his "dude" dupes were): the latter usually produced the opposite effects (not so funny when you had 13 wrong answers in a simple 20-question test).

Shorty and the Quizmaster were integral parts of the DESERTS of a decade ago. Shorty, as his friends know, is still in jail for dynamiting some roadside billboards on the Mojave Desert. The Quizmaster has joined the Peace Corps and is currently stationed at the South Pole.

Hard Rock Shorty of Death Valley



The station wagon, boat in tandem, luggage rack stacked with suitcases and boxes, interior crammed with children, two dogs, a tired mother and an exasperated father, pulled up to Hard Rock Shorty's cabin in Eight Ball Creek Canyon.

The driver honked on his horn, and in due time Shorty appeared from out of the cool shadows on the far side of the cabin.

"Quit your honkin'!" said Shorty. "You'll scare away all th' skunks."

"I'm lost," said the driver. "We're looking for Eight Ball Reservoir. This map . . ."

"Burn thet danged map!" cut in Shorty.

"I know all 'bout thet map, an' I've spent th' leather on four pair o' boots tellin' folks like you thet th' reservoir waz emptied two days after it waz filled. Fact, the only outsider who saw it waz some writer feller who hed thet map drawn fer thet old magazine in yer hands.

"Eight Ball Reservoir! Bah!"

The tourists looked thunderstruck.

"No water?" asked the mother. The kids started howling.

"No water," said Shorty. "But jest as well. Too much danger in this canyon."

The youngsters stopped bawling when they heard the word "danger."

"Water waz too hard," began Shorty. "Right after th' lake filled up behind th' dam, feller thet owned th' ground took out a row boat.

"First thing yu know, he breaks them paddles on the hard water. Then he drifts out in th' middle, an' small waves start lappin' the boat's sides—each one hittin' like a piece o' dynamite.

"In two minutes there ain't no paint left on thet boat. You can see splinters flying. An' inside five minutes, she sprung a leak.

"Waters so thick it just oozes in thet vessel, an' this fellow figures out a good way t' save himself. He chops a hole in th' bottom o' th' boat thinkin' th' water will run out. But it don't work thet way, an' he goes under. Drowned.

"In 48 hours thet water licked thet dam clear to nuthin' an' all thet water banged its way down canyon.

"Probably worked fer the best, 'cause I don't think thet resort operator waz too long on brains."

True or False

Quiz time! Sharpen your pencils — and test yourself on 20 easy questions on the Great American Desert. 12 correct answers is a passing score; 13-16 is good; 17 or better, excellent. Answers are on page 36

1. Fiddleneck is the common name of a desert tree. True.... False....
2. Tallest of the eight native trees of the Southwest desert is the Palm tree. True.... False....
3. If you visited the famous Palm Canyon near Palm Springs, Calif., your admission fee would go into the tribal funds of the Mojave Indians. True.... False....
4. Part of the shoreline of Lake Mead is in California. True.... False....
5. Virginia City, Nevada, was famous for its production of gold. True.... False....
6. The old trail known as El Camino del Diablo crossed the Colorado River at Yuma. True.... False....
7. Father Garces was killed by the Indians at Yuma. True.... False....
8. The Army officer in charge of the first camel train across the western United States was Lieut. Beale. True.... False....
9. The tributary which Powell named the Dirty Devil River is in Utah. True.... False....
10. The book, *Photo Album of Yesterday's Southwest*, was published in 1913. True.... False....
11. California was still Mexican territory when the Jayhawkers made their famous trek across Death Valley. True.... False....
12. Yucca is a member of the cactus family. True.... False....
13. Indio and Palm Springs, Calif., are on the Colorado Desert. True.... False....
14. Father Escalante visited the Grand Canyon about the time the Declaration of Independence was being signed. True.... False....
15. Ballarat is a famous ghost town in Nevada. True.... False....
16. Mormon colonization of Utah was started after gold was discovered in California. True.... False....
17. Ocotillo blooms after a rainfall. True.... False....
18. The name Moqui used by early writers, referred to the Apache Indian tribe. True.... False....
19. Houserock Valley in northern Arizona is famous as the place where Geronimo surrendered. True.... False....
20. Oak Creek Canyon runs south from Flagstaff. True.... False....

VALLECITO

continued from page 11



PALMS, ROCKS, AND SOLITUDE ARE THE MAIN ATTRACTIONS AT MOUNTAIN PALM SPRINGS

the trip to Palm Spring without difficulty, but if the sand appears too soft where the trail crosses the wash, you should walk the remaining part of a mile. Mesquite Oasis and Palm Spring are one and the same, but a sign on the edge of the wash indicating the former may cause a newcomer to head down Carrizo Wash in search of Palm Spring. At times the sand in Carrizo Wash may be packed hard enough to permit the passage of conventional cars for several miles, but normally it is four-wheel-drive country.

Down Carrizo Wash about four miles below Palm Spring a street sign reading "Hollywood - Vine" stands in a strange setting on a near-by hill. Locally, the sign is somewhat of a mystery, but a former resident of Canebrake Canyon told me that it originally marked the location of a spring called Pamitas, which no longer exists. Soldiers were stationed in this area during World War II, so it is not difficult to reconstruct the picture of their finding the Pamitas sign and in an attempt to add a little glamour to their lonely existence, rewording it to match their dreams.

A marker post on your left, 2.7 miles from the Palm Spring turn-off, points the way to the Well of Eight Echoes, which is just a few feet off the highway. The well is a 16-inch steel casing extending 800 feet into the earth, supposedly intended as the fountainhead for a cotton-raising venture in the 1920s. The expected flow never materialized, and the project was abandoned. Today the casing offers a curious acoustical phenomenon. If you shout down the opening you can hear the echoes gradually decreasing in volume until they fade out. Drop a small pebble down the casing and the same thing happens—right up to the last echo, which bursts, seemingly, right in your face



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with a gun-shot report. You will duck, perhaps involuntarily, to let a missile go by, before you realize that you have merely been tricked by the strange action of reflected sound waves.

If your preference for camping spots runs to solitude and plenty of open space, Mountain Palm Spring will fill the bill. This primitive campsite at the base of the Tierra Blanca Mountains is reached by a right-turn 1.5 miles from the Well of Eight Echoes. Here you can wander through the native palms in their secluded settings—there are six major groups—study the bird and animal life that depend on the small spring for their water, or just unwind from the cares of the outside world by doing nothing.

Bow Willow campground, 3.3 miles from Mountain Palm Springs,

offers by comparison the ultimate in desert campsites. Shaded ramadas, tables, benches, propane gas stoves for cooking, water and rest rooms—all are available to the camper. There are only 10 of these camp units at Bow Willow at present, and with the number of occupants for each limited to eight, they are generally filled to capacity on weekends during the desert camping season. Although the park boundaries extend to Highway 80, Bow Willow is the only developed campsite in the south-end of the park. Other campsites and facilities for the visitor's enjoyment are in the planning stage, one of which is a picnic ramada and viewpoint overlooking Canyon Sin Nombre.

If you park your car at the top of Sweeney Pass, three miles beyond the Bow Willow turn-off, and walk to the edge of the ridge, a sweeping pan-



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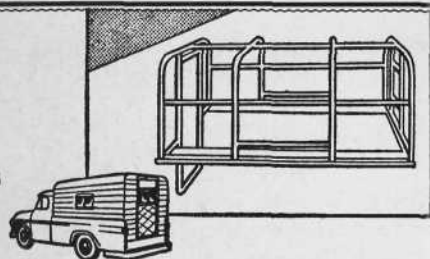
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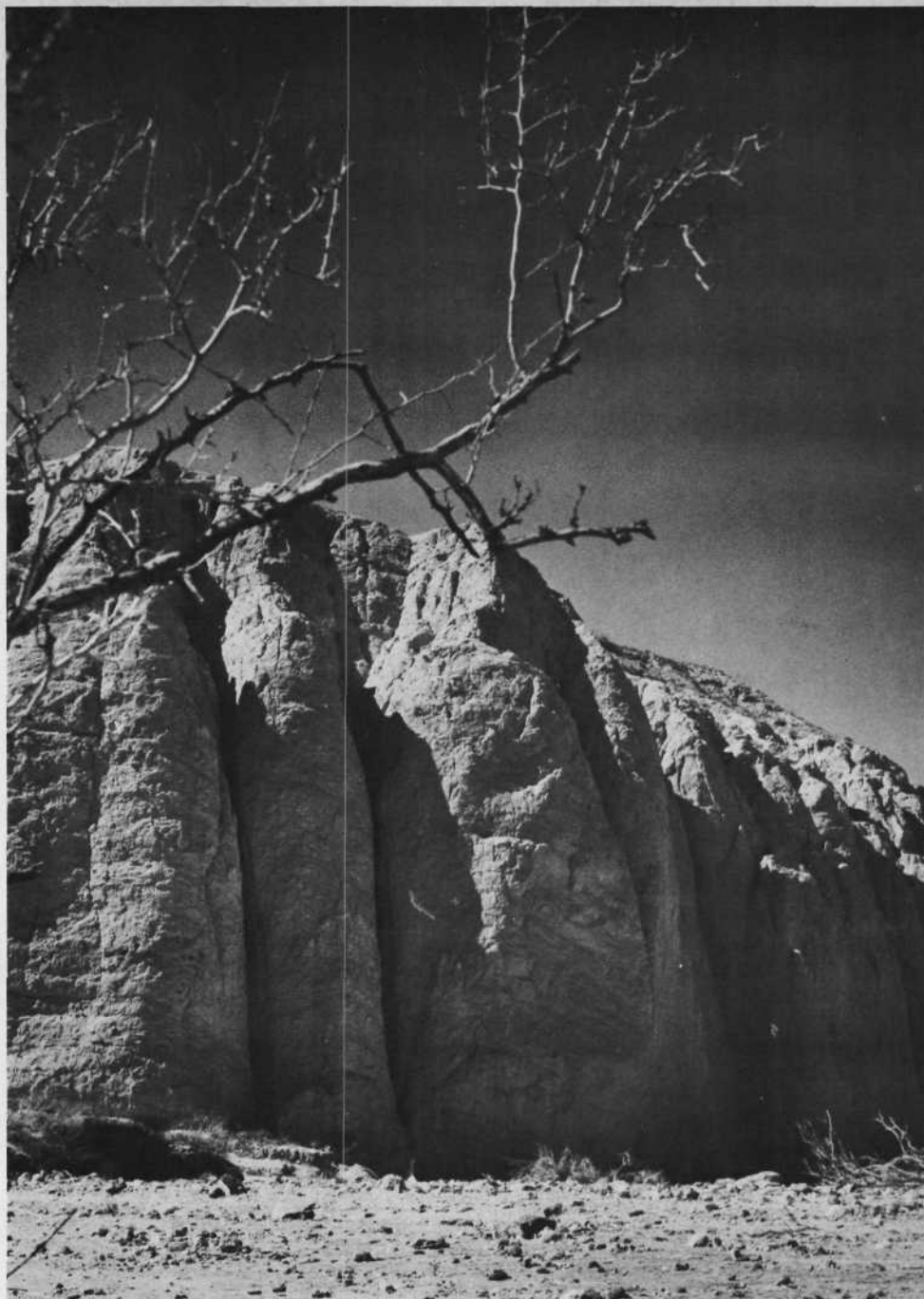
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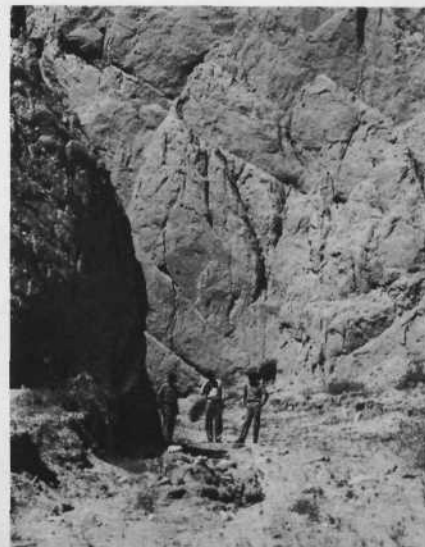
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photographer's paradise. But there
is more to Canyon Sin Nombre than
variegated colorings. There are
steep-walled ravines to explore. There
are geologic structures where you
can see how forces in the past have
folded the terrain into a fantastic ar-
ray of loops and patterns. These you



reach with an easy walk (1.5 miles) from the highway.

Dos Cabezas Spring lies in a protected cove at the base of the Jacumba Mountains near the southern boundary of the park. While it does not as yet have the status of even a primitive campsite, the air of serenity which prevails at this tree-covered outpost more than compensates for its lack of facilities. If you like a little strenuous activity along with your camping, climb to the Dos Cabezas directly behind the spring. Dos Cabezas, which in Spanish means "two heads," are two towering columns of granite on top of a ridge. It's a tough climb to reach them, but once there you get a rewarding view of a wide expanse of desert terrain, and a close look at some bizarre designs wind and water have carved in the granite along the crest.

Visitors to Dos Cabezas should bring their own drinking water, since contamination by dead animals may make the spring water unsafe. When the nearby San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway was carrying passengers, the spring supplied water to the station and adjacent watertank. The spring remains under the jurisdiction of the railroad.

There is much evidence of former Indian occupation in the Dos Cabezas area, such as smoke-blackened caves, pictographs, broken pottery, and *morteros* for grinding seeds. Since many of the unimproved roads and trails leading to these sites are subject to whims of the weather, it is advisable to consult a Park Ranger relative to the condition of the roads. In fact, making use of the information available from a Park Ranger on any part of the State Park will assure your getting the maximum enjoyment from your outing.

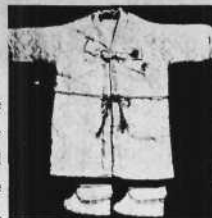
On a recent trip to Dos Cabezas I traveled over a jeep trail that extends westward from the highway near the Imperial County line. This trail is undergoing improvements which will make it passable for standard cars, but the best approach at present is a road that branches off about 4.5 miles beyond that point. This road proceeds westward for about five miles, where it crosses the railroad tracks and continues on to Dos Cabezas, about two miles from the crossing.

Only a few of the major attractions in the southern-end of this vast desert playground have been covered here. There are many more awaiting your discovery. The park is maintained for your enjoyment—you have only to take advantage of what it has to offer.

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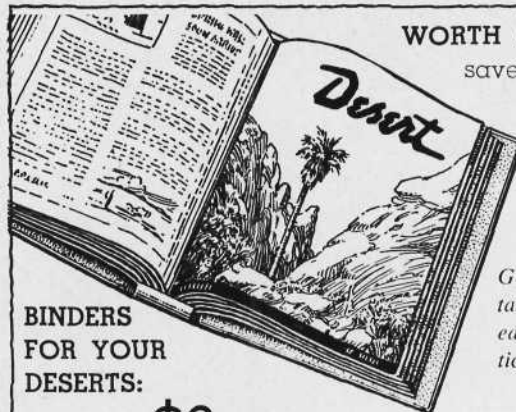
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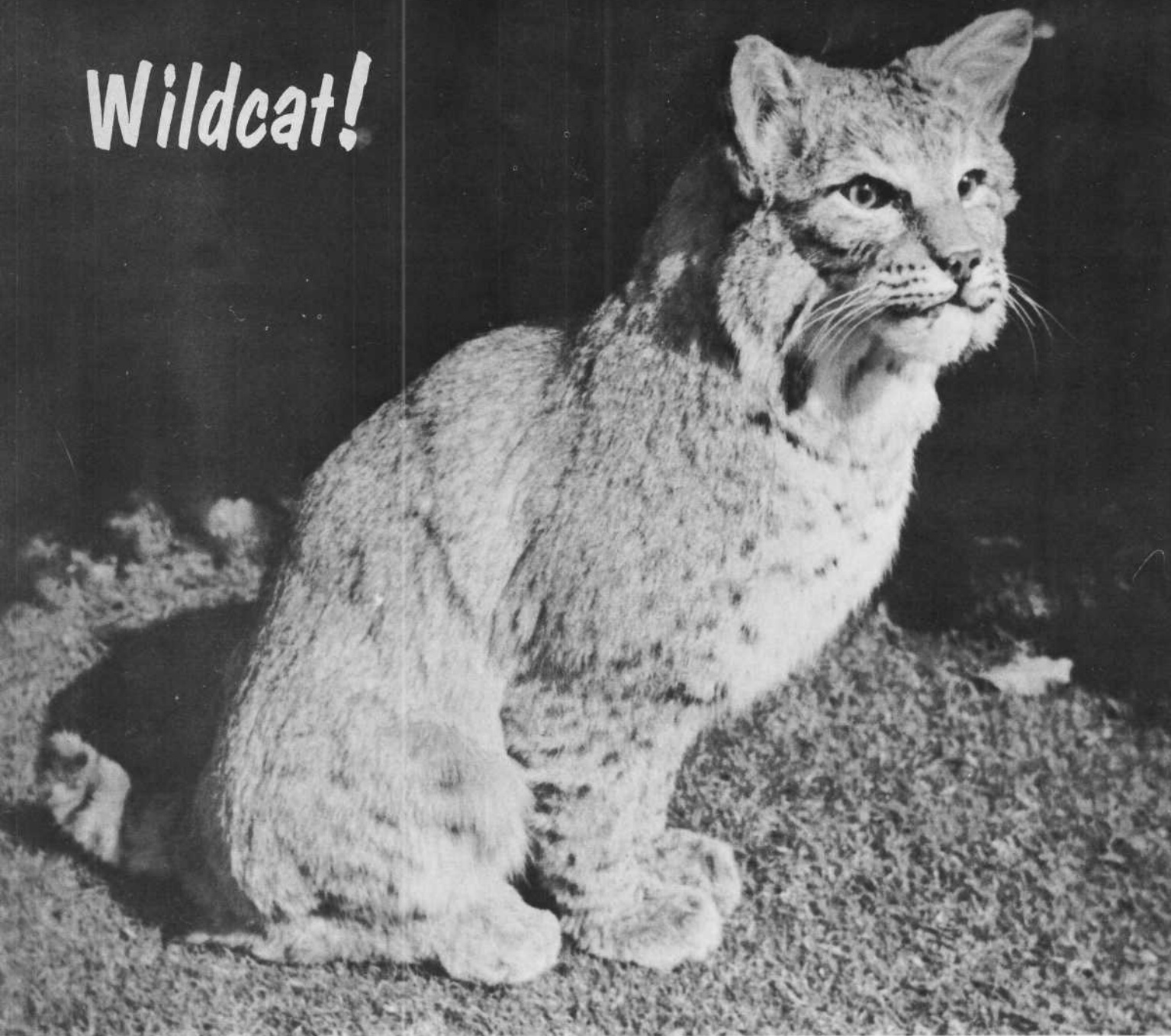
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Wildcat!



By EDMUND C. JAEGER, D Sc.

author of DESERT WILDFLOWERS, THE NORTH AMERICAN DESERTS, DESERT WILDLIFE,
OUR DESERT NEIGHBORS, THE CALIFORNIA DESERTS, A NATURALIST'S DEATH VALLEY

WINTER IS a good time to become familiar with many of the desert's wild and secretive animal neighbors, for food is now hard to come by and these animals are more prone to engage in daytime hunting. Those kindly people who put out food for wildlings are more likely in the winter to be rewarded with the sight of these animals, especially at dusk or in the early morning hours.

Among the shiest of the animals that winter is likely to force into view is the desert lynx or wildcat (*Lynx rufus*), somewhat lighter in color and with fainter markings of black than the more widely-distributed wildcat of the mountains and coastal chaparral slopes.

The desert lynx is typically catlike in appearance, but unlike the domestic house-cat, this creature has tufts

of hair on its ears, possesses long hairs set like sideburns on the jaws, and its tail is stubby and blacked-tipped. The lynx's big paws and stocky build of its long legs, also distinguish it. While its summer coat is thin and harsh, its winter fur is lightweight, but abundant and long.

This brush-dweller is a lone hunter. It likes rough country full of gullies, rocky slopes and canyons. Here

it finds safe dens for rearing its young, and the rodents and game upon which it feeds.

At times the desert lynx turns sun-lover. Occasionally I come upon one lying on exposed rocks or in sunny openings in the brush. Of course, these alert animals usually spot me long before I see them, but when surprised they bound away in great rabbitlike leaps. Since they have small lungs, they tire easily if forced to flee for considerable distances. They always head for the nearest brush, and once the cat is under cover, I am seldom rewarded with a second look. Their admixed gray, tawny and black coat provides excellent camouflage.

The bobcat is a wide wanderer in its hunt for food, yet it often visits old haunts and uses familiar trails. In the desert's arid brushland there is a particular cat I see almost every time I visit a certain rocky gorge. In a way, we have become "old friends." I look at him and he looks at me; evidently he realizes I will never harm him.

The mother bobcat gives birth to but one liter of kittens a year. Generally they are born in March, April or May, and only their clumsy limbs distinguish them at first glance from the offspring of common house-cats. Years ago I came across a wildcat hide-out in the rocky encelia-covered slopes above Palm Springs. During the course of many return visits to this place, I was able to observe the mother raise her three soft-furred kittens. During the early kitten period, the animals often were lying in the sun or playing about the den "door-yard" when I approached. What I observed over a period of time reinforced my belief that few animals are "savage" by nature, but only when we make them so. Man's attitude toward them is usually the only real determinant of the animals' conduct.

It is during this early kitten play-period that we are able, if ever, to make pets of wildcats. Persons given to gentleness, patience and a natural love of animals seem to be able to get good results in taming desert lynx kittens. So much depends on how the young animals are treated. They can never be teased, or suddenly surprised by curious children or thoughtless adults.

Wildcats are known to mate with house-cats. The results are interesting, for the offspring possess the traits of both parents. I recently saw such a wildcat-tamecat offspring on a ranch in the desert foothills of eastern San Diego County. The people who had it said that true to its wild heritage, it liked to spend days at a time hunting in the brushlands; but so far, it has always returned to the ranch. It was wary of strangers, and never made-up well with the family dog, showing its distrust by spitting at him whenever he came near.

The Riverside Municipal Museum's recently acquired mounted bobcat is worthy of special attention, since for once a taxidermist has prepared a specimen that presents an animal of natural, normal appearance, looking at peace—not a fierce, open-mouthed, snarling beast ready to spring. Taxidermists who show the wildcat as a dangerous angry animal ready to do combat with the world, do this creature injustice. While brave and rightfully able to defend itself, the wildcat is shy by nature.

Many bobcats are trapped for their fur; others are killed for the mere love of the gun-carrier for killing something. Especially devastating to the wildcat population are the teenage hunters who fancy themselves as great heroes for sneaking-up on a wildcat and bringing it down with a high-powered rifle. Unfortunately, most local newspapers can't resist running a picture of junior holding a dead wildcat by the tail in one hand and a smoking gun in the other.

George Seymour, game manager, rightly assessed the value of the wildcat, when he wrote:

"Like the coyote, the bobcat has been, and still is, persecuted as a heartless 'killer' of stock, poultry and big game, despite food habit studies that have shown the major portion of its diet has been rodents."

The individual bobcats that prey on domestic poultry and stock should be destroyed; but the bobcat in its role as destroyer of destructive rodents should be looked upon as a very beneficial animal, and as such protected. ///

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NEW IDEAS for DESERT LIVING

By DAN LEE



Portable Fire Fighter—

I've tested many fire-control devices over the years, and the spanking new Jabsco Fire Fighter is one of the best low-priced units I've ever seen. It consists of a completely portable unit including this basic equipment: an 1800-gallon-per-hour water pump, powered by a 2½-horsepower, four-cycle gas engine which is equipped with a wind-up starter, 50 feet of 1½-inch fire hose, suction strainer, 1½-inch brass fire nozzle attached to fire hose, 15 feet of non-collapsible suction hose and quick-release straps on all hoses. All this gear is installed on a two-wheel dolly.

One survey showed that over 200 desert cabins a year burn down, despite the fact that water is sometimes available at the site in storage tanks. Obviously, no municipal fire company can hope to protect cabin owners in thousands of square miles of open desert. Each builder should take steps to protect his own property. The Jabsco Fire Fighter might also be a valuable agricultural unit in certain situations. Priced at \$198.50, from Jabsco Pump Co., 1485 Dale Way, Costa Mesa, Calif.

Compact Power Generator—

Among the dozens of generator models I've tested, the new Charg-R-Lite is a real stand-out in modern miniaturization. It isn't a heavy-duty item by any stretch of the imagination, but for camping trips and battery charging, it should prove ideal. Powered by a potent ¾ horsepower two-cycle gas engine, the Charg-R-Lite produces up to 300 watts of AC, 110-volt electric power on surge, about 200 watts of power on continuous duty. Flip a switch on the control box, and the output becomes 10-amps of DC juice for charging 6-volt or 12-volt storage batteries. Dimensions of 16x9x11 inches, and a low weight of less than 25 pounds make this a truly small package of power. Possible uses include camp light power, for desert homesteads, weekend cabins, or even as an emergency source in the event of civil disaster. The price is \$149.50, from Dept. D. Krestronics Corp., 140 Sheldon Street, El Segundo, Calif.

Poolside Dressing Shack—

Called the Tiki Hut, this new product is actually a bamboo hut with 24 square feet of elbow room. The hut is covered with outer peel split bamboo, tied with galvanized wire, and protected overall by clear weatherproof varnish. Privacy is provided by a closely woven inner liner to the 6 foot height. Wooden clothes pegs and a wall bench are included. The Tiki Hut has good ventilation through the tall bamboo roof, which aids in cooling. No price announced, but Tiki Hut is available either knocked down in kit form or completely assembled from Dept. D, Corona Manufacturing Corp., Sun Valley, Calif.

Load Levelers for Your Car—

The Gabriel Company has produced a new kind of automotive shock absorber that, after testing, really impressed me. They call them Load Absorbers, and they combine the air-oil suspension systems into one package. Quite a bit larger in outward appearance, the new Load Absorbers nevertheless replace your standard car shock absorbers without any additional mechanical changes. Take off the old ones, replace with the new. Load Absorbers are essentially a heavy-duty overload device with a rated capacity of about 500 pounds overweight protection per pair. After installation, air hoses are attached to the air bags built into the upper end of the new shock absorber, and pressure can be altered from 30 to 90 pounds. By altering air pressure, a controlled ride, with just the right amount of firmness, is possible. Very handy for towing a boat or travel trailer with a later-model car, most of which are way under-suspended. After the trip is over, reduce pressure in the air bags by bleeding air and the ride returns to the freeway softness many drivers prefer for town duty. On my car, I found them excellent. The Load Absorbers raised the rear end of the car a good two inches at half pressure and allowed a full load of camping gear to be carried without excessive sag of the car body. Priced at \$45, from Dept. D, The Gabriel Co., 341 So. Hudson, Pasadena, Calif.



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THEIR DREAM "HELD WATER"

By KAY DUNN

BIG DREAMS and hard work. This is a tried and true formula for success, and it's paying off for a pair of modern-day desert "prospectors" who have made their strike in the shadow of the earlier bonanza at Calico.

The old-time miners took silver out of Calico. Nine miles northwest of nearby Newberry, Gus Raigosa and his wife, Loreen, are mining water. They have created a 23-acre lake—appropriately named Lake Loreen—the center of a modest recreational complex that includes docks, cabanas, barbecue pits, trout pond, water skiing facility, and a restaurant, the "Blue Lagoon." Bamboo, tamarisk and grape vines grow at the water's edge.

Thin, wiry and perpetually cheerful, Raigosa fell in love with the desert at first sight.

"I loved the freedom, beauty, sunshine and pure air," he said. He felt the excitement of new opportunity in brown barren ground. All it needed to be "the most perfect place on earth" was water.

"I was born and raised near the ocean, and water seemed to be a part of me," Gus said. "I knew I couldn't be happy too far from water, no matter how much I loved the desert.

"And so—far-fetched as it seemed—we began to lay our plans to develop a lake on the Mojave. The dream Loreen and I shared was to create South Sea Island beauty in the clean warm desert sands."

Working on a shoe-string, the Raigosas began their search for a place for their lake. They settled on 40 acres in Newberry Valley east of Barstow, nestled in the shadows of the Calico, Newberry and Cady mountains. The year was 1959.

"Nature," said Gus, "had been hard at work for us for centuries." The average static water level on his

property is 26 feet. This anomaly is reputedly caused by the unusual behavior of the Mojave River, which winds its way northward mostly underground. The flow of water strikes a mammoth subsurface rock barrier in the Cadys. This natural dike creates a vast backlog of water which fans out over a huge underground reservoir. Gus's property sits in the heart of this reservoir.

Friends at home in El Segundo and even the local earth-moving con-

TO REACH LAKE LOREEN from Barstow, drive east on Highway 66 past Newberry to Newberry Road; turn left (north) and drive 4 miles to Valley Center Road; turn right (east) and drive 3½ miles.

tractor voiced skepticism over the plan to create a lake, but work started on schedule. A trough for the first lake—eight acres in size—was bulldozed out. A mound was left in the center for an island. Heavy clay was found under the surface sand—a perfect sealer for a lake bottom. A well was drilled, and its fountain-head turned into the gaping hole. Then came the long, agonizing wait.

"I was obsessed with doubt and fear," Gus remembers. "Would it hold water, or wouldn't it?"

"We had sold our home to finance this crazy dream, and these were the longest days in my life!"

It took six weeks of day and night water flow for the subsurface to become saturated, and then the lake began to fill.

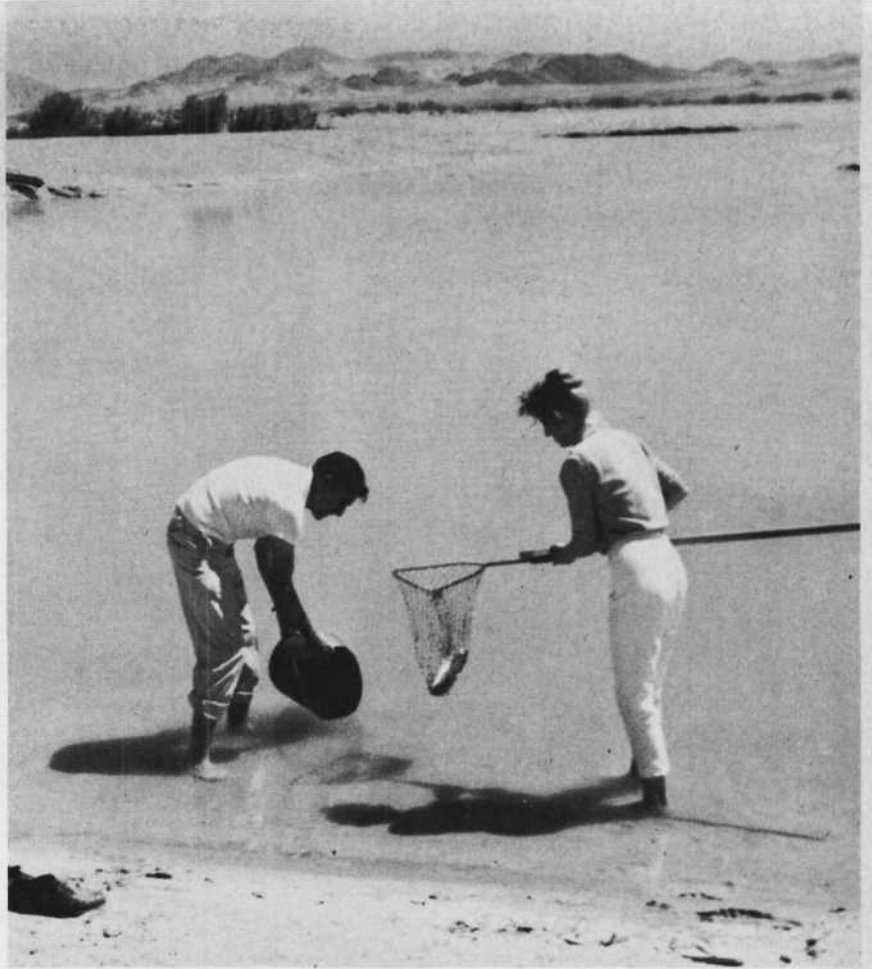
Since Gus and Loreen both worked in El Segundo, they could only visit their desert property during the weekends.

"Each weekend the water was higher, and our hopes rose with it," said Loreen. The best weekend was the one in which they found their lake filled to capacity. They spent the night on their island, watching the splendor of the desert sunset, and the sparkling blanket of stars that followed, reflected in the mirrorlike surface of the water. Even the distant beauty of the Cady Mountains got into the picture.

"We felt as though we owned the whole universe that night," recalls Loreen.

Today, the Raigosas' dream is steadily unravelling into reality. Lake Loreen is more than a playground for visitors; it is a unique reminder of what ingenuity and hard work can still create on the desert.

///



GUS AND LOREEN RAIGOSA STOCK FISH IN THEIR MOJAVE DESERT LAKE



A MUSEUM WORKER EXPLAINS THE SHAPES OF VARIOUS CRYSTALS TO TWO STUDENTS

GEOLOGY FOR THE BLIND

By RUTH A. KIRKBY

RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL MUSEUM

SEVERAL YEARS ago I met a little girl who was blind. I gave her a smoothly polished rock to hold, and as she rubbed the slick surface her face lighted up and she exclaimed: "It is so beautiful."

I recalled her happy face and cheery remark for a long time after this experience. While working at my job, collecting and sorting specimens, or viewing displays by other collectors, I found my thoughts crystallizing on the many interesting facets of geology that could be shared with the sightless. I started to collect specimens in an almost unconscious manner, and soon I accumulated a large stack of specimens that could be enjoyed by the sightless.

This was the beginning of a project of teaching geology workshops for the blind in the Museum's new earth science building. Theme for these programs is, "The Wonders of Our World."

We study the rock groups that compose our earth—those made by volcanic action, or igneous rocks; the ones that are changed by heat or pressure, the metamorphic kind; and rocks that are compacted sediments from debris of many kinds, the sedimentary rocks. My students participate in building up some layers of this last mentioned rock group by using old telephone books. We lay down one layer of sediment after another—page by page we build these layers of land surface, and in our

minds we see the great thickness of sediments that cover so much of the earth. I tell of the plastic form of our earth and how restless sections were lifted to build up mountain ranges—while my students push the edges of the books together to build a "mountain." Right on the tables in the Museum, we observe some of the phenomena of earth science that my students can understand—even though they can not see the exposed rocks in a road-cut.

My program progresses to specific rocks, and this time I use a very soft specimen that can be easily scratched with a fingernail. Many people think of rocks as being very hard, and until they study geology do not realize that many rocks are soft. I purposely choose diatomite for this demonstration, and as my students scratch deeply into the rock surface with their hands, they are told that they are removing thousands of tiny microscopic plant skeletons. These skeletons are so small *no one* can see them without very great magnification. I continue by describing the one-celled plants called diatoms that live in all kinds of water, even that which we drink. Billions of their skeletons are heaped up in such quantities that they make great sections of the earth in certain areas.

A study of mineral forms is next on the program, and while my assistants pass out small cubic crystals, the students ponder over the shape

and light weight of the specimens. Some cautious guesses are made—but until I suggest that the students lick the crystal form with their tongues, no one thinks of the specimen being a common salt (halite) crystal.

We dig deeper into our box of wonders. Small pieces of petroleum-bearing rocks are vigorously rubbed together while my students wrinkle their noses in displeasure at the strong odor coming from these stone specimens. Minerals gain a new perspective. Here are rocks with beautiful shapes, others with taste, and some with odor.

The last rock in the box is of irregular and uninteresting form. It is obvious that the outer surface does not hold the clue to the wonderment of this specimen. But, when a tiny magnet is held close, the rock pulls it tight—the mysterious force of magnetite can not be seen with the human eye.

Most programs include a musical selection. One of our museum docents, Ritner Sayles, introduced the group to phonolite, a rare rock that gives off a ringing tune when struck with a hard object. Mr. Sayles entertains the blind students with a "cave-man" tune played on large chunks of phonolite.

After the musical portion of our program, a special rock show is held. Specimens are arranged on tables manned by museum workers ready to discuss their displays.

Students are guided in small groups from table to table to "view" the many interesting specimens. A display of minerals of various weights (specific gravity) arouses much curiosity. The difference between the heavy weight of galena (lead) and the extreme lightness of pumice can not be comprehended by sight. Of special interest also is the smooth surface of a large rock—slickensides—that has been polished by earth movements.

The students are able to handle driftwood mineralized into a fossil log of great weight—and a piece of modern wood which is light by comparison; fossilized clams and those from a modern beach; the greasy feel of a gastrolith from the claw of an extinct dinosaur; a petrified leg bone—and a lightweight cow bone.

We also display modern lapidary equipment and its end product—smoothly polished spheres, bookends, desk sets and jewelry.

There is much of our earth to be "seen" with the tips of sensitive fingers. ///

GOVERNMENT LAND

continued from page 15

patent (title on the land), he must have cultivated, irrigated, reclaimed and produced crops on at least 1/8 of the acreage. Ditches and laterals for irrigation must extend to all the irrigable area. A Desert Land Entry, unlike the Reclamation Entry, is a private venture, and the applicant makes his entry through the BLM. A purchase price of \$1.25 an acre must be paid for these lands.

The traditional requirements for earning full title to the homestead—construction of a dwelling, and residence on, and serious cultivation of the land—will remain as the cornerstones of the homestead laws until, perhaps, the last acre of government land is disposed of.

The new auction procedure for small tracts differs in that there are no requirements as to improvement

MORE INFORMATION

on present - day homesteading opportunities in the Desert Southwest is available by mail or in person from these BLM offices:

RIVERSIDE—1414 8th St.

PHOENIX—1305 North Central Ave.

RENO—50 Ryland St.

SANTE FE—Federal Court Bldg.

SALT LAKE CITY—335 Federal Bldg.

of the land or construction of a building. Full payment is made at the time of sale, and a patent is issued upon approval of the sale by the BLM. That closes the transaction.

This fact has prompted Secretary Udall to observe that, "One of the best ways to obtain public lands is to purchase a tract which the government has placed on the market for sale. A few may choose to locate land themselves and file an application for it, but such situations take longer than purchasing land already classified because of the need to examine the lands before any final action may be taken on the application."

Public lands are not expensive, but no longer are they "free." No matter how a person obtains public land—whether bid on or lived on and developed as a farm—it will cost money.

Lands sold outright are appraised and sold at not less than a "fair market value" for similar lands in pri-

vate transactions. Development of the wells, lines and equipment necessary to make final proof on an agricultural entry may cost as high as \$60,000.

If, in spite of everything, you load up your Jeep and begin the modern equivalent of a covered-wagon assault on what is left of the open spaces, you should start with the land itself, as did our pioneers. People who are seriously interested in Government land usually have an area picked out. With legal description on their dream parcel in hand, they go in person to their local Land Office to examine the records and determine the status of the tract. If the land is open to filing under the Public Land Laws, the next steps follow in order.

If this sounds too complicated and you are still determined to homestead, you may hire someone to find available land for you. Land locators and filing services have offices in many cities. For a fee, these people will examine the status of lands on the public records, inspect the characteristics of the land and even fill out application blanks, preparing supplementary information that may be required. However, the government warns the homesteader to be cautious, as none of the land locator services are regulated. ///

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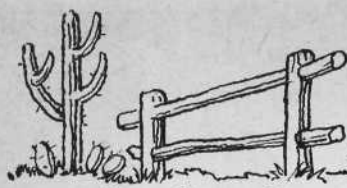
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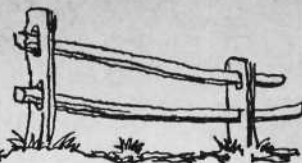
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Continued from preceding page

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Statement Required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Acts of March 3, 1933, July 2, 1946 and June 11, 1960 (74 Stat. 208) showing the ownership, management, and circulation of Desert Magazine published monthly at Palm Desert, California, for October 1, 1962.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher Eugene L. Conrotto, P. O. Box 481, La Quinta, Calif.

Editor Eugene L. Conrotto, P. O. Box 481, La Quinta, Calif.

2. The owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.)

Desert Magazine, Inc., Palm Desert, Calif.

Charles E. Shelton, Palm Desert, Calif.

Leonard A. Shelton, California Bank Bldg., Pomona, Calif.

Joe Turner, 129 N. Rockingham, Los Angeles, Calif.

Robert M. Shelton, 2950 Lombardy Rd., Pasadena, Calif.

Edw. Lightfoot, California Bank Bldg., Pomona, Calif.

Eugene L. Conrotto, P. O. Box 481, La Quinta, Calif.

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None.

4. Paragraph 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting; also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner.

5. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was: (This information is required by the act of June 11, 1960 to be included in all statements regardless of frequency of issue.) 32,104.

Eugene L. Conrotto, Publisher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26th day of September, 1962

Jeannette A. Constantino

(My commission expires September 25, 1964.)

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True or False Answers

Questions are on page 23

1. False. Fiddleneck is an herblike plant.
2. True.
3. False. Cahuilla Indians own Palm Canyon.
4. False. Mead is a Nevada-Arizona lake.
5. False. Virginia City was a silver producer.
- 6, 7, 8, 9. True.
10. False. *Photo Album of Yesterday's Southwest* came out in November, 1961.
11. False. The Jayhawkers came in '49—California became a state in 1848.
12. False.
- 13, 14. True.
15. False. Ballarat is in California, near Death Valley.
16. False. The Mormons came west in 1846.
17. True.
18. False. Moqui meant Hopi.
19. False. Geronimo operated along the U.S. southern border.
20. True.

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see ad on back cover

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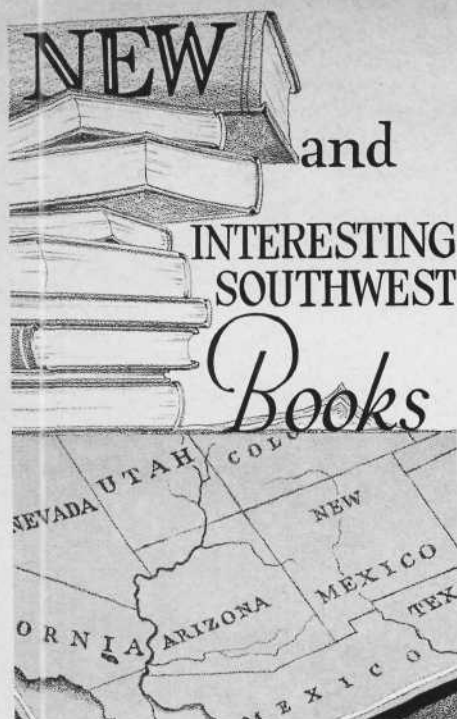
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